

REMARKS

Claims 6-15 are pending in this application. Claims 6 and 14-15 are independent. In light of the remarks contained herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 9, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sasson et al.* (USP 5,016,107) in view of *Wakui* (USP 5,648,816); and rejected claims 8, 10, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sasson et al.* and *Wakui* in view of *Watanabe* (USP 4,887,161). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103 - *Sasson et al.*/*Wakui***

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 6, the Examiner admits that *Sasson et al.* fails to teach automatically transferring the image data from the built-in memory to the detachable memory card upon the detecting means detecting an insertion. However, the Examiner relies on *Wakui* to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Sasson et al.*, citing to col. 4, line 48 - col. 6, line 32. The Examiner asserts that *Wakui* teaches the digital image signals stored in the image memory are automatically transferred to the memory card when the memory card is correctly connected to the camera. The Examiner additionally

cites to col. 8, lines 12-20; col. 10, lines 26-64; and col. 19, lines 15-27 and lines 58-64. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of this reference.

It is respectfully submitted that the disclosure set forth in *Wakui* is directed to a still video camera including detachably attachable external memory. Specifically, at col. 10, lines 26-55, *Wakui* teaches setting a record mode in accordance with the operation of the mode selection switch by an operator. If there is sufficient storage capacity of the IC memory card 31, the memory card record mode is set by the system controller 2. If the release switch is turned on in the memory card record mode, the exposure operation is carried out for the CCD 3 under predetermined exposure conditions similar to the recording operation of data in the image flash memory 20.

Additionally, at col. 19, lines 15-64, *Wakui* discloses a process for interrupting the main routine when the IC memory card is inserted. In other words, a recording process may be interrupted when the IC memory card is inserted.

In contrast, the present invention as set forth in claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, a digital camera for capturing images comprising memory control means for automatically transferring image data from the built-in memory to the detachable memory card upon detecting means detecting the insertion. It is respectfully

submitted that *Wakui* merely discloses when an exposure operation is carried out, the data is stored in IC memory card 31. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in *Wakui* that teaches automatically transferring the image data from the built-in memory to the detachable memory card upon the detecting means detecting the insertion. As such, *Wakui* fails to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Sasson et al.*, assuming these references are combinable, which Applicant does not admit. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is not obvious over *Sasson et al.* in view of *Wakui*. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 7-13 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 6 at least based upon their dependency on claim 6. It is further respectfully submitted that claims 14-15 contain elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 6 and, thus, claims 14-15 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 6.

#### Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinnet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview

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in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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